

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 12 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the document data obtaining means obtains plural document data each including plural individual pages each in a format with a page number added, the plural document data being prepared using respective different kinds of application programs, whereby the selecting means selects respective plural individual pages from among the plural individual pages included in the plural document data stored in the storage means to create a virtual document, and whereby the controlling means (i) reads out the plural individual pages selected by the selecting means from the plural document data stored in the storage means, (ii) amends the page number added in the format of each of the read out plural individual pages in accordance with the virtual document created by the selecting means, and (iii) outputs the plural individual pages each in the format with the amended page number added for a printing purpose.

Similarly, each of independent claims 14 and 17 has been amended in a similar manner to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the converting means converts plural documents

into plural graphic data in individual page units, and whereby the document processing is carried out with respect to the individual page units.

Still further, program code claims 19-21 have been amended to accord with amended claims 12, 14 and 17, respectively.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 12, lines 2-16.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 12, 14, 17 and 19-21 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 12, 14-17 and 19-21 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of USP 6,327,599 ("Warmus et al"); claim 13 stands finally rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Warmus et al and USP 5,588,103 ("Aoyagi"); and claim 18 stands finally rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Warmus et al and USP 6,470,363 ("Kanerva et. al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to amended claims 12, 14, 17 and 19-21 as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in the amended claims, a document processing apparatus, method and

program code are provided which operate to combine and renumber respective individual (i.e., complete) pages or page units from plural documents created from respective different application programs.

That is, the claimed present invention as recited in the amended claims provides a system for allowing the creation of a new virtual document by arbitrarily selecting individual pages from a plurality of pages of SPOOL-stored document data, then reading data from print images corresponding to the selected individual pages, masking the original page numbers of the selected individual pages, and assigning new pages numbers to the print images of the selected individual pages to allow the printing of the virtual document with new page numbers.

Thus, the claimed present invention as recited in the amended claims allows respective individual page data from all kinds of document forming applications to be combined into a virtual document, which can be printed as a single document. And since plural document data is obtained in a format corresponding to the operating system of the computer, it is possible to arbitrarily select individual pages which have been created by many different kinds of applications and combine the selected individual pages into a single virtual document for printing.

Conventionally, stored plural document data is produced by the printing functions of various applications, with the stored

page data having already been assigned a page number. As a result, when a combination of desired pages are to be printed as a new document, the page numbers are incorrect.

According to the claimed present invention, however, this problem is overcome by amending the page numbers of the selected individual pages for printing to correspond to the page order of the virtual document.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al merely discloses a system for enabling data from different kinds of programs to be combined together within respective single pages of an overall document to be created. That is, as recognized by the Examiner, Warmus et al does appear to disclose a system for combining data from different programs to be combined together. In Warmus et al, however, the data is combined together within respective single pages of the overall document to be created, whereas the claimed present invention operates to combine and renumber respective individual (i.e., complete) pages or page units from plural documents created from respective different application programs.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in the amended claims clearly patentably distinguishes over Warmus et al, taken singly or in combination with either of Aoyagi and Kanerva et al, under 35 USC 103.


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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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